GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION

A FEW SHORT MONTHS AGO WE CELEBRATED THE COMING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD. YHERE WAS DARKNESS ALL ABOUT, MEN HATED AND FOUGHT AND WALLOWED IN THEIR OWN SIN AND IGNORANCE: AND IN THEIR MIDST A LIGHT, IN THE FORM OF A NEW BORN BABY, WAS LIT. WITH JOY AND WARMNESS WE EACH LIT OUR OWN TINY CANDLE AND AS IT SPUTTERED STRUGGLED AGAINST THE DARKNESS WE FELT THAT HE HAD TRULY BEEN BORN ANEW THAT NIGHT.

THAT LIGHT GREW THROUGH THE YEARS, ITS GLOW WAS PURE AND BRIGHT, ITS RAYS CAST THEMSELVES INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN, TURNING THEM INTO EMBASSADORS OF LOVE AND PEACE. BUT NOW WE HAVE WITNESSED THE LIGHT GO OUT.

HE OFFERED A NEW LIFE AND WAS REJECTED
HE TAUGHT MEN TO LOVE HE OFFERED HIS LOVE AND HE WAS DESPISED AND HATED
HE SAID "BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL" AND WAS ANSWERED WITH BESTIAL CRUELTY
HE PRESENTED MEN WITH THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE AND PAID WITH DEATH
HE WAS LIGHT, BUT THE LIGHT HAS BEEN CONSUMED.

MEN HAVE NOT CHANGED, TWO THOUSAND YEARS LATER OUR WORLD IS STILL A MASS OF SQUABBLING, ARGUING, SPITEFUL, HATING HUMANITY. MEN ARE STILL JEALOUS, MEN STILL KILL AND SHOW BESTIAL CRUELTY, MEN SEEM TO WILLINGLY CHOOSE THE WAY OF DARKNESS.

Recall the Spiritual

WE ARE A PART OF THAT HUMANITY. BY OUR HUMANESS WE ARE LINKED TO THOSE, WHO 20 CENTURIES AGO, SNUFFED OUT THE LIGHT. THEIR GUILT IS OUR GUILT ALSO, ONE HUNDRED TIMES WE HAVE EACH ONE, SNUFFED THAT LIGHT OUT OF OUR OWN LIVES. TONIGHT DARKNESS REIGNS, EVIL HAS WON THE DAY.

BUT THE CHRIST HAS NOT CHANGED EITHER. LONG AGO MEN NAILED HIM TO A CROSS, THEY couldn't stand the pureness

THOUGHT THEY HAD PUT OUT THE DREADED LIGHT, THEY HAD NOT SUCEEDED. Tonight we observe the death — ~~But~~ what seems like the victory of evil

But THAT TINY LIGHT WAS STRUCK ANEW IN THE HEARTS OF PETER, JAMES, PAUL, STEPHEN: ITS with the sunrise of east

GLEAM DID NOT FAIL BUT INCREASED AS IT SPREAD AND SPREAD WHEREVER IT WENT STRIKING NEW

FLAMES. (ALL FROM THAT ONE LIGHT THAT WAS CRUCIFIED.)

NOTHING HAS CHANGED RADICALLY. THAT LIGHT GLOWS DIMMLY IN THE HEARTS OF EACH ONE

OF US. (AS WE SIT IN THE DARKNESS RECALL HOW MANY TIMES YOU HAVE TRIED TO PUT IT OUT

AND YET IT IS STILL THERE.

WE ARE FACED WITH A CHOICE, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THAT SPARK: IGNORE IT? ALLOWING

IT TO GLOW SOMETIMES AND OTHER TIMES TO GO OUT. ~~OR WILL WE AX LET IT CONSUME US? WILL~~

WE ALLOW IT TO ALTER OUR LIVES, TO GIVE US NEWNESS, TO GIVE US LIGHT.

DARKNESS NEED NOT AROUND, ~~WE HAVE WITHIN US A WEAPON THAT IS INVINCIBLE~~, BECAUSE ~~THAT~~

CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED → there may be born in us a newness — ~~LIGHT WENT OUT LONG AGO WE NOW KNOW THE WAY~~, WE UNDERSTAND. IT IS DARK, BUT WE ~~MAY HAVE~~

~~LIGHT.~~ KNOW THE WAY. IT IS DARK BUT WE MAY HAVE LIGHT

AND WITH A LOUD VOICE HE SAID

"FATHER INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."